

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 1529-07
Bill No.: SCS for HCS for HB 523
Subject: Telecommunications; Insurance - Property; Insurance Dept.
Type: Original
Date: May 6, 2011

Bill Summary: Establishes a limited-lines insurance license to sell portable electronics insurance and modifies the law with respect to motor vehicle extended service contracts plus surplus lines insurance.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
General Revenue	Unknown, expected to exceed \$100,000	Unknown, expected to exceed \$100,000	Unknown, expected to exceed \$100,000
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund	Unknown, expected to exceed \$100,000	Unknown, expected to exceed \$100,000	Unknown, expected to exceed \$100,000

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Insurance Dedicated	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
This fiscal note contains 10 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

☐ Estimated Total Net Effect on All funds expected to exceed \$100,000 savings or (cost).

☒ Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund expected to exceed \$100,000 (cost).

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Office of State Courts Administrator** assume the proposal would have no fiscal impact on their organization.

Officials from the **Office of Administration - Administrative Hearing Commission** anticipate this legislation will not significantly alter its caseload. However, if other similar bills also pass, there are more cases, or the cases are more complex, there could be a fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR)** state the legislation is not anticipated to cause a fiscal impact to JCAR beyond its current appropriation.

Officials from the **Office of Attorney General (AGO)** assume any potential costs arising from this proposal can be absorbed with existing resources. The AGO may seek additional appropriation if there is a significant increase in the number of referrals from the department to handle the increase in workload.

Officials from the **Department of Corrections (DOC)** state the DOC cannot predict the number of new commitments which may result from the creation of the offense(s) outlined in this proposal. An increase in commitments depends on utilization by prosecutors and the actual sentences imposed by the court.

If additional persons are sentenced to the custody of the DOC due to the provisions of this legislation, the DOC will incur a corresponding increase of direct offender costs either through incarceration (FY 10 average of \$16.397 per offender, per day, or an annual cost of \$5,985 per inmate) or through supervision provided by the Board of Probation and Parole (FY 10 average of \$3.92 per offender, per day, or an annual cost of \$1,431 per offender). The DOC assumes the narrow scope of the crime will not encompass a large number of offenders and the low felony status enhances the possibility of plea-bargaining or imposition of a probation sentence. The probability also exists that offenders would be charged with a similar, but more serious offense, or that sentences may run concurrent to one another. Therefore, supervision by the DOC through probation would result in some additional costs, but it is assumed the impact would be \$0 or a minimal amount that could be absorbed within existing resources.

Officials from the **Office of Secretary of State (SOS)** state the fiscal impact for this proposal is less than \$2,500. The SOS does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, the SOS also recognizes that many such bills may be passed by the

ASSUMPTION (continued)

General Assembly in a given year and that collectively the costs may be in excess of what the SOS can sustain within its core budget. Therefore, the SOS reserves the right to request funding for the costs of supporting administrative rules requirements should the need arise based on a review of the finally approved bills signed by the Governor.

Officials from the **Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions, and Professional Registration (DIFP)** state the department will collect licensure fees for portable electronics insurance which will be deposited into the Insurance Dedicated Fund. The amount of licensure revenue that would be deposited into the Insurance Dedicated Fund is currently unknown due to the uncertainty of the number of potential licensees and the amount of the fee the DIFP would charge would not exceed the cost and expense of administering the provisions of this proposal.

DIFP officials also state they are unable to determine how many producers would need to be licensed as business entity producers with respect to motor vehicle extended service contracts due to licensure exemptions listed in the proposal. The DIFP believes the work required under the provisions of this proposal can be completed within current staffing levels. However, should the workload be more than anticipated, FTE and expenses will be requested through the budget process.

This legislation may result in annual additional general revenue from taxes on premiums paid for surplus lines insurance. The DIFP bases its assumption on reports for calendar year 2010 in cases where the insured risk was partly allocated to Missouri based on where the insured risk was resident, located or to be performed. Based on these reports, the DIFP estimates that the change from the current allocation method to a method based on the home state of the insured would result in additional surplus lines tax.

Oversight assumes minimal penalties will be collected as a result of the provisions of the proposal and is not presenting penalties in the fiscal note.

Oversight notes the provisions of sections 384.015 - 384.061 will become effective upon enactment of this legislation and sections 385.200 -385.211 of the proposal will become effective January 1, 2012.

Officials from the **Office of Prosecution Services (OPS)** did not respond to **Oversight's** request for a statement of fiscal impact. However, in response to an earlier version of this proposal, the OPS assumed the proposal would have no significant fiscal impact on their organization.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Officials from the **Office of State Treasurer (STO)** did not respond to **Oversight's** request for a statement of fiscal impact. However, in response to an earlier version of this proposal, the STO assumed the proposal would have no impact on their organization.

Officials from the **Office of State Public Defender** did not respond to **Oversight's** request for a statement of fiscal impact.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
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GENERAL REVENUE FUND

Income - DIFP

Increase in taxes on premiums paid for surplus lines insurance	<u>Unknown,</u> <u>expected to</u> <u>exceed</u> <u>\$100,000</u>	<u>Unknown,</u> <u>expected to</u> <u>exceed</u> <u>\$100,000</u>	<u>Unknown,</u> <u>expected to</u> <u>exceed</u> <u>\$100,000</u>
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ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND	<u>Unknown,</u> <u>expected to</u> <u>exceed</u> <u>\$100,000</u>	<u>Unknown,</u> <u>expected to</u> <u>exceed</u> <u>\$100,000</u>	<u>Unknown,</u> <u>expected to</u> <u>exceed</u> <u>\$100,000</u>
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INSURANCE DEDICATED FUND

Income - DIFP

Licensing fees for portable electronics	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Licensing fees for business entity producers - vehicle extended service contracts	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Costs - DIFP

Administration and costs associated with portable electronics licensing	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>
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ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON INSURANCE DEDICATED FUND	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
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FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government

FY 2012

FY 2013

FY 2014

\$0

\$0

\$0

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

This proposal would impact small businesses that sell portable electronics insurance and extended service contracts as they would be required to be licensed.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This proposal requires any person or entity issuing, selling, or offering for sale any portable electronics insurance to be licensed with the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration. In its main provisions, the proposal: (1) Specifies the information which an applicant must provide to the department for licensure; (2) Requires any person currently selling insurance for portable electronics to file an application within 90 days of it being made available with the department to obtain a license to continue to sell the insurance; (3) Specifies that an initial license will be valid for 24 months and expire December 31 of the renewal year assigned by the department director; (4) Specifies that a license will authorize any employee or authorized representative of the vendor to sell or offer portable electronics insurance to a consumer at each vendor location; (5) Requires a vendor licensed by the state to notify the department director of all its locations in the state and to provide brochures or other written material to customers that disclose certain specified information; (6) Allows portable electronics insurance to be offered on a monthly or other periodic basis; (7) Requires each portable electronics insurance program to establish eligibility and underwriting standards for the coverage; (8) Allows an employee or authorized representative of a vendor to sell or offer for sale portable electronics insurance coverage without a license if the vendor is licensed, the insurer appoints a supervising agency for the administration of the program, and the employee or representative does not claim to have a nonlimited lines insurance license; (9) Allows a vendor to charge, bill, and collect for portable electronics insurance coverage; (10) Allows the department director to refuse to issue or renew, suspend, or revoke any license based on certain criteria and to cause a complaint to be filed against a licensee with the Administrative Hearing Commission as specified in the proposal; and (11) Requires the department to establish licensure fees which will be deposited into the Insurance Dedicated Fund to be used solely for the administration of the licensure requirements.

These sections of the proposal become effective January 1, 2012.

HWC:LR:OD

FISCAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

This proposal modifies the law regarding motor vehicle extended service contracts.

DELIVERY OF MOTOR VEHICLE EXTENDED SERVICE CONTRACTS - This proposal makes it unlawful for a motor vehicle extended service contract provider to fail to deliver a fully executed motor vehicle extended service contract to the consumer within a commercially feasible time period (no more than 45 days), from the date the consumer's initial payment is processed.

LICENSING - The proposal also modifies who may sell motor vehicle extended service contracts. The authorized employees of motor vehicle dealers, motor vehicle manufacturers, lenders, and other entities may sell such contracts. Business entity producers or individual producers licensed under the provisions of this proposal may sell such contracts. Business entity producers must pay an initial and renewal licensure fee not to exceed \$100. Individual producers must pay an initial and renewal licensure fee not to exceed \$25. Examinations for individual producers are waived. Producer licenses issued under the proposal are valid for a period of 2 years and must be renewed biennially. Business entities must provide a list to the director of all of their locations at which they offer service contracts (Section 385.207).

FREE LOOK PERIOD - The proposal modifies the free look period provision for reviewing a motor vehicle extended service contract. If a claim is made under the contract during the free look period, the provider shall refund to the contract holder the full purchase price less any claims that have been paid (Section 385.206.14). The proposal further provides that a motor vehicle extended service contract shall state that a service contract holder may cancel the contract after the free look period at any time and the provider must refund 100% of the unearned pro rata provider fee, less any claims paid. A reasonable administrative fee may be surcharged by the provider in an amount not to exceed \$50 (Section 385.206.13).

DECEPTIVE PRACTICES - The proposal modifies the law regarding what constitutes a deceptive practice under the motor vehicle extended service contract act.

The proposal also makes it unlawful for a person to use fraud in the connection with the offer or sale of a motor vehicle extended service contract. Employing fraud in connection with the sale of a motor vehicle extended service contract is a level 3 violation under the insurance code (civil penalties of \$5,000 per violation, etc.). In addition, persons engaged in fraud in connection with the sale of a service contract shall be guilty of a felony, be subject to imprisonment for a term not to exceed 10 years, and be ordered to pay restitution (Section 385.208).

SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF LICENSE - The proposal establishes the statutory reasons for which the director may suspend or revoke a license to sell motor vehicle extended service contracts. The proposal also establishes the appeals process an aggrieved license holder may follow if the holder's license is suspended or revoked. Appeals shall be made to the

FISCAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

administrative hearing commission. The proposal also requires motor vehicle extended service contract producers to notify the director of address changes, license revocations, or civil actions within 30 days. In addition, producers must report to the director any felony proceedings initiated by any state or the federal government within 30 days of the initial pretrial hearing date or arraignment (Section 385.209).

REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLE EXTENDED SERVICE PRODUCERS - Under the proposal, a provider registered to issue motor vehicle extended service contracts must maintain a register of business entity producers who are authorized to sell such contracts in this state.

Within 30 days of a provider authorizing a producer to sell motor vehicle extended service contracts, the provider shall enter the name and license number of the producer in the company registry of appointed motor vehicle extended service contract producers. Within 30 days of a provider terminating a business entity producer's appointment to sell motor vehicle extended service contracts, the provider shall update the registry with the effective date of the termination.

Under the proposal, providers having information relating to any cause for discipline under the act must notify the director of this information in writing (Section 385.211).

This proposal changes the laws regarding the regulation of surplus lines insurance to comply with the federal Nonadmitted and Reinsurance Reform Act of 2010 (NRRA) to bring about uniformity in the licensing of surplus lines insurance professionals, the standards under which surplus lines insurance may be sold, and the taxes that can be collected from the sale of surplus lines insurance. In its main provisions, the proposal: (1) Specifies that surplus lines insurance may be placed by a surplus lines licensee if the insurer is authorized to write the type of insurance in its domiciliary jurisdiction; (2) Changes the requirements and qualifications for a nonadmitted insurer to furnish coverage. A surplus lines licensee must not place coverage with a nonadmitted insurer unless the licensee determines that the nonadmitted insurer: (a) Meets the capital and surplus requirements of Missouri or \$15 million. The Director of the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration may waive the financial requirements if the nonadmitted insurer's capital and surplus is at least \$4.5 million and upon an affirmative finding of acceptability by the department director; and (b) Appears on the most recent list or eligible surplus lines insurers published by the department director or on the most recent quarterly listing of alien insurers maintained by the international insurers department of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC); (3) Specifies that a surplus lines licensee seeking to procure or place nonadmitted insurance in Missouri for an exempt commercial purchaser cannot be required to satisfy any requirement to make a due diligence search to determine whether the full amount or type of insurance sought by the exempt commercial purchaser can be obtained from nonadmitted insurers if: (a) The surplus lines licensee procuring or placing the surplus lines insurance has disclosed to the exempt commercial purchaser that the insurance may or may

FISCAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

not be available from the admitted market that may provide greater protection with more regulatory oversight; and (b) The exempt commercial purchaser has subsequently requested in writing the surplus lines licensee to procure or place the insurance from a nonadmitted insurer; (4) Changes the licensing requirements for an insurance producer in the surplus lines insurance market. Beginning on or before July 1, 2012, the department director must participate in the national insurance producer database of the NAIC or any other equivalent uniform national database for the licensure of surplus lines licensees and the renewal of the licenses. A person selling, soliciting, or negotiating nonadmitted insurance with respect to an insured must be required to obtain or possess a current surplus lines insurance license issued by the department director only if this state is the insured's home state; (5) Requires every insured or self-insurer whose home state is Missouri who procures surplus lines insurance, other than through a surplus lines broker, to file a report before March 2 with the department director describing the names of the insureds, the subject of the insurance, and other prescribed information. Currently, this is required for every insured in this state; (6) Specifies that only the home state of the insured will have the authority to tax and regulate the placement of these policies, regardless of where risks or portions of the risk are located; (7) Imposes a 5% tax on the entire gross premium for nonadmitted or surplus lines insurance policies for which the home state of the insured is Missouri. Currently, it is based on the net premium; and (8) Specifies that the placement of nonadmitted insurance must be subject to the statutory and regulatory requirements of Missouri law only if this state is the insured's home state. A surplus lines broker is required to be licensed as a surplus lines licensee under the provisions of Chapter 384, RSMo, only if this state is the insured's home state. (Sections 384.015 - 384.061)

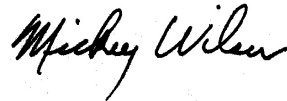
These sections of the proposal have an emergency clause.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of Administration -
 Administrative Hearing Commission
Office of Attorney General
Office of State Courts Administrator
Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions, and Professional Registration
Department of Corrections
Joint Committee on Administrative Rules
Office of Secretary of State

**NOT RESPONDING: Office of Prosecution Services, Office of State Public Defender, and
Office of State Treasurer**



Mickey Wilson, CPA
Director
May 6, 2011